

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5-9 and 13-16 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5-9 and 13-16 are amended, and Claim 10 is canceled by the present amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.<sup>1</sup> No new matter is presented.

In the outstanding Official Action, the drawings were objected to because of a minor informality; Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 7, 13 and 14 were objected to because of minor informalities; Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Kitawaki (JP 2001-130324); Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Yanagawa (JP 2000-108786); and Claims 5-9 and 13-16 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter. In response, Claims 5-7 and 13-14 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 1. Further, Claims 8-9 depend from Claim 5, and Claims 15-16 depend from Claim 6.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 5-9 and 13-16 are in condition for allowance.

The drawings were objected to for failing to show text labeling for various elements in Fig. 2 that are described in the specification. Specifically, the Official Action notes that “any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be show in the drawing.” Applicant respectfully traverses this objection.

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<sup>1</sup> e.g., specification, p. 9, lines 26-29.

As noted in the Official Action, the components corresponding to reference characters 16-18, 20, 29, 31 and 35, are each described in detail in the specification. Further, these components are depicted in Fig. 2 in a manner that provides some exemplary structural detail, and which does not facilitate the labeling of each component with text labels (e.g., door switch 35). Therefore, in view of structural details of Fig. 2, and the corresponding description of the system in the specification, Applicant respectfully submits that “any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention” is shown in the drawings.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection of the drawings be withdrawn.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. As Claim 10 is canceled herein, this rejection is moot.

Claims 7, 13 and 14 were objected to as depending from canceled claims. As noted in the Official Action, these claims were intended to depend from Claim 1, and each are amended to be in independent form by incorporating the subject matter of Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to Claims 7, 13 and 14 be withdrawn.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Kitawaki. In response to this rejection, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claim 1 recites novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended independent Claim 1 relates to a side-mirror apparatus for an automobile. The mirror apparatus may be in a drawn-out position so as to obtain a field of view in a rear direction, and stored in a drawn-in position when not in use. The side mirror apparatus comprises:

imaging means, on an substantial end portion of an  
outer casing of the side mirror apparatus, for obtaining a field

of view in a direction substantially orthogonal to a field of view of the side-mirror apparatus,

wherein the imaging means obtains a field of view in a side direction when the side-mirror apparatus is in a drawn-out position and the imaging means obtains a field of view in a rear direction when the side-mirror apparatus is in a stored position, and

wherein *the imaging means is inactivated after a predetermined amount of time has elapsed after an automobile door is opened.*

Support for the above-emphasized claimed feature can be found at least at p. 9, lines 26-29 of the specification, which discloses that “the system is shut down after a prescribed amount of time has elapsed after the door is opened so as to turn off the image.” As a safety feature, the imaging means may be activated upon the opening of the door to allow the driver to view the rear direction for oncoming traffic. The claimed automatic shutoff feature automatically turns off the camera without further user interaction.

Turning to the applied reference, Kitawaki describes a mirror mounted imaging device that captures images in three directions around an automobile.<sup>2</sup> An exemplary configuration of Kitawaki’s device is depicted in Fig. 1, which shows the camera (4) mounted in a mirror housing (2) and able to scan various fields of view (400).

Kitawaki, however, fails to teach or suggest *inactivating the imaging means after a predetermined amount of time has elapsed after an automobile door is opened*, as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

As note above, Kitawaki describes in detail how his camera device is capable of scanning in three directions using a camera (4) mounted in the mirror housing. However, Kitawaki, at no point, teaches or suggests inactivating the camera after a door has been opened for a predetermined period of time, as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

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<sup>2</sup> Kitawaki, ¶[0001].

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Reply to Office Action of August 25, 2006

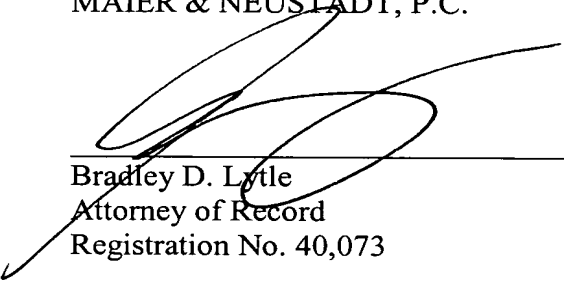
Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1, 5-9 and 13-16 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable consideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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